

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00
DOTE-00 EB-08 FMC-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 CG-00 DLOS-09
OES-06 SP-02 USIA-06 AID-05 NSC-05 TRSE-00 SS-15
STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 FRB-03 XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04
SIL-01 PA-01 PRS-01 SSM-03 /111 W
-----190029Z 124800 /21

R 181440Z APR 77
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5778
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, ECON, IS
SUBJECT: MARITIME OFFICER'S STRIKE CONTINUES

REF: TEL AVIV 2671 (NOTAL)

1. THE TWELVE DAY STRIKE OF MARITIME OFFICERS CONTINUES
AND UNION LEADERS PROCLAIM THEY WILL "FIGHT TO THE FINISH."
MANAGEMENT, HOWEVER, REFUSED ANY COMPROMISE AND INSISTS
THAT THE GOVERNMENT NOT INTERFERE. THE HISTADRUT HAS
ALSO TAKEN A TOUGH STAND AGAINST THE UNION AND HAS VOTED
TO SUSPEND IT; I.E., TO WITHHOLD ALL FURTHER PAYMENTS
TO THE UNION AND DEPRIVE IT OF ANY LEGAL SUPPORT.

2. THE OFFICER'S UNION HAS APPEALED TO THE INTERNATIONAL
TRANSPORT WORKERS' FEDERATION (ITF) FOR SUPPORT, AS THE
STRIKE IS SPREADING TO ISRAELI SHIPS IN FOREIGN PORTS,
BUT HISTADRUT HAS SENT A COUNTER-MESSAGE TO ITF HEAD-
QUARTERS IN LONDON ASKING IT TO IGNORE THE MARITIME
OFFICERS' REQUEST BECAUSE THEIR STRIKE IS ILLEGAL.

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3. THE CHAIRMAN OF THE HISTADRUT MARITIME DEPARTMENT
TOLD EMBASSY THAT THE GOVERNMENT MAY ISSUE EMERGENCY
BACK TO WORK ORDERS TOMORROW, DESPITE THE SHIPPING
COMPANIES' REQUEST NOT TO INTERVENE. SHIPPERS FEAR
THAT GOVERNMENT ORDERS MAY BE DEFIED, AND THAT HARBOR
PILOTS WOULD JOIN THE OFFICERS, THUS BLOCKING ALL THE

PORTS THE SEAMEN'S UNION AND THE STAFF UNION OF THE SHIPPING COMPANIES CONDUCTED ONE DAY PROTEST STRIKES AGAINST THE SHIP OFFICERS', CHARGING THAT THEIR IRRESPONSIBLE ACTIONS ARE DESTROYING THE ISRAELI SHIPPING INDUSTRY AND ENDANGERING THEIR JOBS. REPORTEDLY THE OFFICERS' UNION IS NOW FACING INCREASING INTERNAL DIVISION AS SOME SHIP CAPTAINS HAVE APPEALED TO THEIR UNION LEADERS TO END THE STRIKE ACTION.

4. ACCORDING TO THE SHIPPERS' ASSOCIATION, ONLY EILAT PORT IS BLOCKED AT PRESENT (BY TWO TANKERS). THERE ARE NO ISRAELI SHIPS IN ASHDOD, AND IN HAIFA ONLY TWO ISRAELI SHIPS ARE NOW OCCUPYING DOCK SPACE. THIRTEEN ISRAELI SHIPS ARE SITTING OUTSIDE THE PORT AT HAIFA, WITH MUCH OF THE PORT FACILITIES FUNCTIONING NORMALLY. ISRAELI SHIPS ENTERING FOREIGN PORTS HAVE BEEN ASKED TO STRIKE UPON ARRIVAL.

5. THE KEY ISSUE REMAINS THE NEGOTIATION OF A NEW CONTRACT. SHIP OFFICERS WERE WORKING ON THE BASIS OF AN INTERIM "VERBAL UNDERSTANDING" REACHED WITH SHIPPERS IN DECEMBER 1976 THAT UNTIL A NEW AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED THEY WOULD BE GIVEN A COMPENSATORY DOLLAR BONUS TO ASSURE THAT OFFICERS EARN MORE THAN RATINGS. RATINGS RECEIVE DOLLAR PAYMENTS FOR OVERTIME AND OTHER PREMIUM WORK. THE SHIPPERS DENY THAT THE "AGREEMENT" WAS A GUARANTEE OF WAGE DIFFERENTIAL FOR OFFICER GRADES AND THAT THEIR SALARIES ARE WELL ABOVE YEARLY EARNINGS OF RATINGS. THE OFFICERS CHARGE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THAT THE SHIPPERS WILL NOT NEGOTIATE IN GOOD FAITH AND ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DELAYS IN REACHING AN AGREEMENT. IN THE MEANTIME SHIPPERS ARE PLACING BOTH SEAMEN AND STRIKING OFFICERS ON LEAVE IN ORDER TO CUT COSTS. ALL NEGOTIATIONS ARE CURRENTLY DEADLOCKED. DUNNIGAN

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Message Attributes

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Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 18-Apr-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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